

2012 Military Health System CONFERENCE



Going Green Saves You Green!

Green cleaning practices save money,
without impacting quality.

The MHS: Healthcare to Health

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Introduction



- In 2011 the MEDDAC established its Sustainability Committee in support of Executive Order (EO) 13514, the DoD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan.
 - Our goal: to increase sustainability throughout the hospital, decrease costs, and not impact the quality of services provided.
 - Collectively identified chemical use, water conservation, and cost as key factors.
 - Tested Microfiber Cleaning and Chemical Usage.

Methods



- Performed Trials: Microfiber vs. Wet mopping
 - Selected 3 floor techs, analyzed factors: time, water used, and quality, while holding study area constant; repeated 3 times.
- Conducted Joint Chemical Reviews
 - Reviewed literature to satisfy green criteria. Tested for 6 weeks; re-evaluated by safety and infection control prior to acceptance
 - Partnered with local laundry contractor to increase green laundry chemical use.

Results



- \$340,000 annual cost savings directly attributed to reduced labor by the conversion from wet mopping to microfiber practice.
- \$32,000 annual cost savings due to reduction in the number of cleaning products: 25 to 19.
- \$12,000 annual cost savings by plastics reduction within the linen contract.
- 53% of all chemicals used are Green.
- 39% of all EVS equipment is Green.

Conclusion & Recommendation



- Conclusion:
 - The fallacy of Going Green costs more is busted. We have proven it saves money.
- Recommendation:
 - All the changes are easily exportable to all MHS treatment facilities.
- Strategic Budgetary Perspective:
 - If the entire MHS embraced these changes it would save at least \$50M per year.